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NOTES AND NEWS.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MATHEMATICAL TEACHERS IN NEW ENGLAND.

The twelfth annual meeting of this association was held in the buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on December 5, 1914, at ten o'clock in the forenoon and at two o'clock in the afternoon.

The committee on nominations which consisted of Prof. E. V. Huntington, Mr. F. P. Morse, and Mr. A. V. Galbraith, reported the following candidates for the offices for 1915.

President, Professor J. L. Coolidge, Harvard University.

Vice-President, Professor F. C. Ferry, Williams College.

Treasurer, Mr. F. W. Gentleman, Mechanic Arts High School, Boston.

Members of the Council, Mr. Elmer Case, Brookline High School; Miss Harriet R. Pierce, Worcester High School.

To fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Edwin A. Shaw, Mr. William L. Vosburgh, Boston Normal School.

These candidates were elected.

The report of the treasurer for the year 1913-1914 was read, accepted and placed on file. The committee on Pre-High School Mathematics consisting of Mr. William L. Vosburgh, chairman, Mr. A. Lawrence Murphy, Miss Amelia A. Hall, Mr. A. Harry Wheeler, made a preliminary report of progress.

The morning program consisted of four short papers on the detail of mathematical instruction in the secondary school. These topics brought forth some very interesting and profitable discussion. The large attendance of about a hundred and fifty gave evidence that the general character of the topics and discussion was of the type which our members find profitable.

The luncheon at the Technology Union was attended by about sixty, and formed a very enjoyable social feature of the day's program.

The first speaker of the afternoon session was Professor Birkhoff, of Harvard University, who presented to the associa-

tion a "Simple Unsolved Mathematical Problem" which should suggest to the teachers of secondary mathematics an interesting topic for study. The problem of coloring a map with not more than four colors, which was Professor Birkhoff's topic, was of a nature simple enough to be within the reach of those of us who are not keeping our higher mathematics fresh in our minds by the teaching of advanced courses; while, at the same time it was seen to be difficult enough to call for the serious study which would make its further investigation a stimulating piece of work for those who wish to broaden their outlook by dipping into subjects outside the details of the topic which they happen to be teaching. The substance of this address is given in an article by Prof. Birkhoff in the *American Journal of Mathematics*, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, pp. 115-128.

The preliminary report of the Committee on the Present Status and Welfare of Mathematics in the Secondary Schools which consists of Professor H. W. Tyler, chairman, Professor F. C. Ferry, Professor Sarah E. Smith, Miss Harriet R. Pierce, Mr. George W. Evans, Mr. A. V. Galbraith, was read by the chairman. This report, although it was only a preliminary one, gave evidence of the thoroughness and faithfulness with which the committee is doing this important piece of work. This report also served as an introduction to the address by Mr. Henry C. Morrison, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in New Hampshire. Mr. Morrison's paper will be given in a later issue of the *MATHEMATICS TEACHER*.

This address was followed by a general discussion of the questions involved in the report of the above committee and Mr. Morrison's paper. Professor Ferry opened the discussion in which Professors Coolidge and Huntington and Dr. Snedden joined.

The committee has had extended correspondence with Commissioner Snedden which is likely to be published in the near future.

The committee has recently organized sub-committees on The Status of Algebra; The Practicability of an Introductory, Composite Course; The Training of Teachers of Mathematics; School Programs; Psychological Aspects of the Subject; Mathematics for Girls.

A syllabus for each topic is in preparation, and correspondence with persons interested would be welcome.

NEW MEMBERS.

ADAMS, ALFRED S., 22 Vine St., Auburn, Me.
 BEATLEY, RALPH, Milton Academy, Milton, Mass.
 HALE, ARTHUR W., 43 Newell Road, Auburndale, Mass.
 HOYT, MISS AMELIA A., 3 Robinson Ave., Danbury, Conn.,
 MERRITT, H. T., Brewster Free Academy, Wolfeboro, N. H.
 ROBINSON, MISS FANNIE H., 142 Hammond St., Bangor, Me.
 WATERMAN, PAUL W., Volkman School, Boston, Mass.

NEW MEMBERS ADDED SINCE NOVEMBER 1, 1914.

AKERS, WINFRED C., 108 University Road, Brookline, Mass.
 BATES, F. JAY, Barton Academy, Barton, Vt.
 BRAYTON, PERCY F., 136 Milton St., West Medford, Mass.
 BIRKHOFF, PROF. GEORGE D., 49 Shepard St., Cambridge, Mass.

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 ROCHE, JOHN C., English High School, Boston, Mass.
 SMITH, WILLIAM E., Supt. of Schools, Fairfield, Conn.
 SWIFT, PROF. ELIJAH, 433 South Willard St., Burlington, Vt.
 WELLMAN, JUSTIN O., Colby Academy, New London, N. H.

THE spring meeting of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics for the Middle States and Maryland will be held at Hunter College, New York City, on April 17.

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